

## BUSY "BEE-ING" BETTER

**ABOUT PACKAGING SPECIALTIES OF IDAHO, INC.** Packaging Specialties, Inc. (PSI) supplies over 27 different industries with the highest quality printed films available. With three strategically placed printing locations in the U.S. equipped with state-of-the-art PCMC 10-color presses, PSI can wrap just about any food item found in a typical grocery store. The plant in Burley, Idaho, has approximately 45 employees.

**THE CHALLENGE.** Managers at the PSI Burley branch saw similarities between PSI and the humble bumblebee. Though the bumblebee is not optimized to fly, the insect does not seem to know this and performs at a high level regardless. In a similar vein, PSI has learned to fly high in the world of commercial printing by becoming lean and innovative. A slew of Continuous Improvement ideas had started to weigh on the plant's production team because the company didn't have enough leaders to drive the ideas forward to implementation. PSI asked a manufacturing specialist from TechHelp, part of the MEP National Network™, to help develop a cadre of trained Lean Leaders who could keep PSI flying high.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** Dave O'Connell, of TechHelp and Idaho State University, stepped in to accelerate the ongoing Lean Manufacturing efforts at the Burley plant, starting with a six-month Lean Boot Camp. The Boot Camp helped PSI form an integral component of the company's Lean strategy: the Opportunity of Improvement Project (OIP) board. Sitting in a visible part of the plant, the OIP board lists plant and process improvement ideas generated by the PSI workforce that have the green light for funding and implementation. It became a visual representation of a new motto for the plant: "Tell me, and I may forget; show me, and I may remember; involve me, and I will understand."

Another idea that PSI turned into reality was the "BEE Hive," a comfortable classroom with state-of-the-art AV equipment that sits above the PSI plant floor. PSI employees came up with the idea and the name for the room and obtained the financial and managerial backing to make it happen. Today, PSI uses this dedicated space to create BEEs, or "Better Educated Employees." PSI launched several Lean initiatives that improved equipment efficiency, increased gross margins on sales, and produced immediate bottom-line savings.

"PSI wants its employees to be as successful as possible at their everyday tasks, but at the same time wants them to be efficient in how they do those tasks. Dave O'Connell helped get PSI to this place."

-Traig Jones, Production Foremen

## RESULTS



Earned TechHelp's Spirit of Continuous Innovation Award



Created culture of continuous improvement



Identified **\$250K** in cost savings



Innovative ideas generated **\$200K** in new sales



Invested **\$105K** in people, plant, and processes

## CONTACT US



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**TECHHELP**  
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